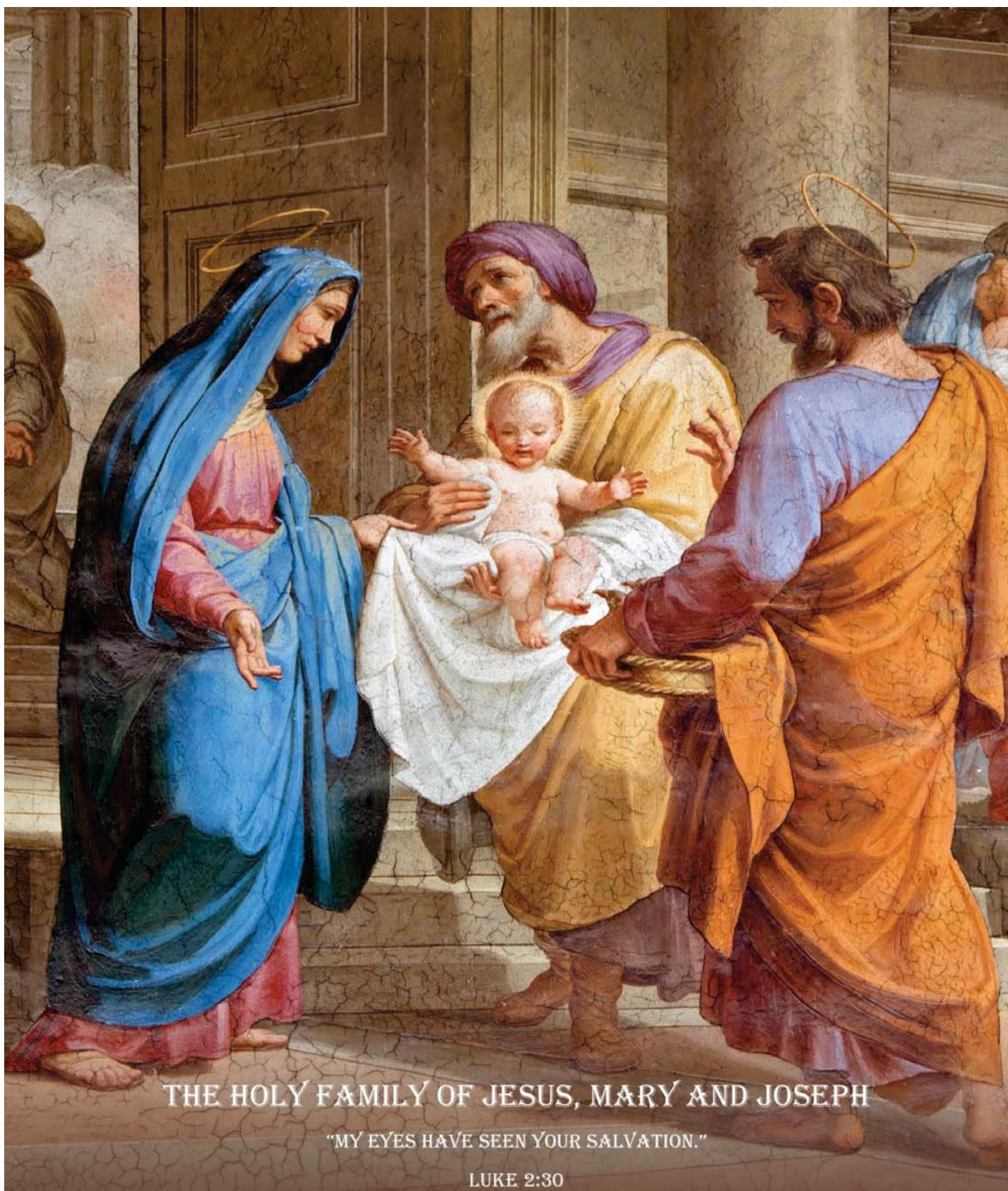


METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

DEC 31
2023



THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

"MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION."

LUKE 2:30

ST. LUCY CHURCH | 254 MERRIMACK ST.

ST. MONICA CHURCH | 212 LAWRENCE ST.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Each year on the Sunday within the octave of Christmas we celebrate the precious feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. In the readings of the Mass on the Sundays and weekdays of Advent and Christmas our relationship with the Holy Family grows. Year by year our intimacy with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph deepens in the liturgy and in the events of our lives. We look to the Holy Family for guidance within our own families, having the trust and confidence of faith that our families are dear to them. They are with us at every moment, joyful or sorrowful.

Even when our families may be some distance from us don't we still have the communion of love and the communion of our own Nazareth with the Nazareth of the Holy Family? How blessed we are in the communion of faith.

The Holy Family teaches us the importance of praying as a family. Speaking at a general audience in December of 2011 Pope Benedict XVI said the following:

. . . the Family of Nazareth became the first model of the Church in which, around the presence of Jesus and through his mediation, everyone experiences the filial relationship with God the Father which also transforms interpersonal, human relationships.

. . . in the light of the Gospel, the Holy Family is the icon of the domestic Church, called to pray together. The family is the domestic Church and must be the first school of prayer. It is in the family that children, from the tenderest age, can learn to perceive the meaning of God, also thanks to the teaching and example of their parents: to live in an atmosphere marked by God's presence. An authentically Christian education cannot dispense with the experience of prayer. If one does not learn how to pray in the family it will later be difficult to bridge this gap. And so I would like to address to you the invitation to pray together as a family at the school of the Holy Family of Nazareth and thereby really to become of one heart and soul, a true family.

In today's Gospel Mary and Joseph provide a wonderful example of the obedience of faith. They do what is asked of them in the law of Moses as they make a pilgrimage to the temple in Jerusalem to present Jesus to the Lord. Their faith which is both spiritual and physical involves action. Pope Benedict notes that, "The Holy Family's pilgrimage was one of faith, of the offering of gifts — a symbol of prayer — and of the encounter with the Lord whom Mary and Joseph already perceived in their Son Jesus."

For those of us who are advanced in years St. Luke gives us great hope in telling of Simeon and Anna who are lead by the Holy Spirit, as we are. In the Gospel we hear the *Song of Simeon*, the words which are sung at each night prayer in the *Liturgy of the Hours*, "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

We know that in these days prayer and the obedience of faith in fidelity to the sacraments needs to be strengthened. It is the prayer of our hearts that we would not see death until each child and grandchild, each dear niece and nephew would be filled with light, glory, and divine life in an intimate spiritual and sacramental relationship with Our Lord.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, pray for us.



Christmas Tree Pick-up for Methuen Residents Only

Again this year, St. Monica School can pick up your Christmas Trees for a \$10 donation! Mr. Marc Krzywicki will be taking appointments to pick up your tree for the weekends of:

December 30 & 31

January 6 & 7

January 13 & 14

If you would like your tree picked up, please contact him at 978-500-7880 to make your appointment!

We would like to thank Mr. Krzywicki for his generosity in doing this for us every year!



CHRISTMAS SHARING

Many thanks to all who participated in the Christmas sharing program this year. We are so grateful for your generosity and your support this Christmas season.

This year many families in the METHUEN area will be helped through the St. Vincent DePaul Society because of your tremendous support.

St. Lucy Parish collected gift cards totaling \$4,200. St. Monica Parish collected gift cards totaling \$5,950.

Realizing times are difficult for many, we are so proud of our parishioners for their outstanding support of this Christmas Sharing Program.

Wishing you all a Blessed Holiday Season.

Mary Jo Farelli & Annette Autiello



Solemnity of Mary

THE MOTHER OF GOD

JANUARY 1ST

HOLY DAY MASSES

9AM - ST. LUCY CHURCH

12PM - ST. MONICA CHURCH



INVITE CHRIST INTO CHRISTMAS

A CONCERT FEATURING:
MARIE-LINE MORIN SOPRANO

JANUARY 7TH - 2PM

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE CHURCH - 200 LAWRENCE RD, SALEM, NH
NO CHARGE FOR ADMISSION - VOLUNTARY DONATIONS APPRECIATED



Long Term Substitute – Middle School Language Arts Teacher Needed

St. Monica School is seeking an exceptional full-time, Long-Term Substitute-Middle School Language Arts Teacher for January to June 2024.

Candidates should be passionate about teaching our children using Best Practices and providing them with the best possible academic opportunities. Candidates should be willing to collaborate with specialists and manage individual education plans and accommodations as needed.

The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to teach students in a diverse, faith based, nurturing environment where everyone is recognized as a unique child of God. If interested, please call **Donna Henderson, Principal at 978-686-1801.**

PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

- | | | |
|--------|-----------|-----------|
| MARY | SHEPHERDS | LISTENED |
| JOSEPH | JESUS | WONDERFUL |
| BABY | ANGEL | NAMED |

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followed by
MEN'S MINISTRY**

Wednesday, January 3rd
6-8pm
St. Lucy Church

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

To keep the First Saturday Devotion, attend Mass, pray rosary, meditate on the mysteries for 15 minutes. Go to confession within eight days.

9am Mass
Saturday, January 6 | St. Monica Church
Rosary to follow in Gethsemane Chapel

DEVOTIONS SCHEDULE

Tuesday evenings 6-6:30pm
Rosary Prayer Group for Priests
Gethsemane Chapel

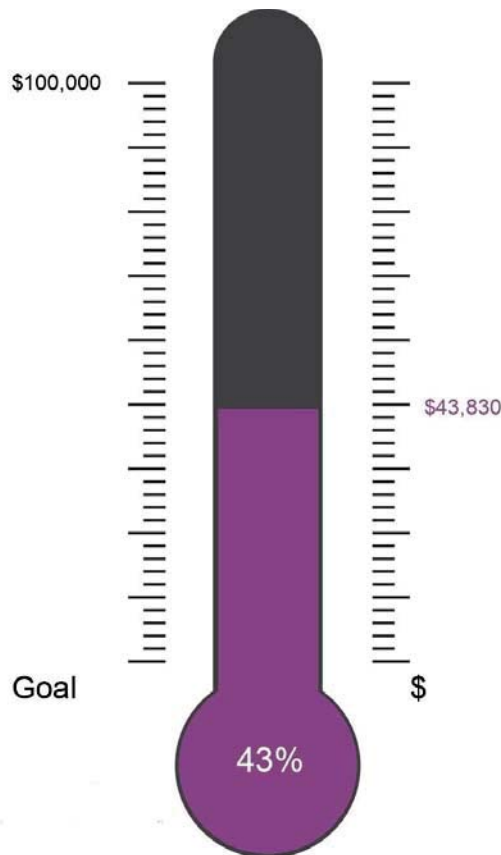
Wednesday mornings 9:30-11am (ZOOM)
Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet & book discussion.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
Wednesdays 6-7pm St. Lucy Church

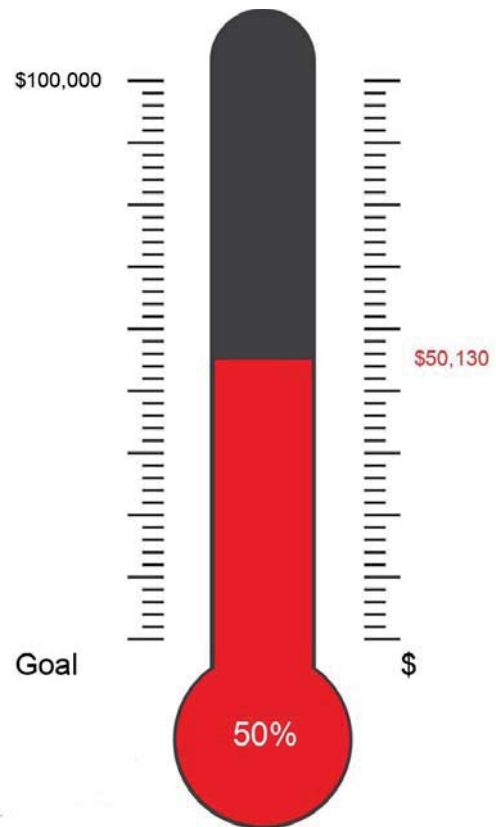
Thursday evenings 6-6:30pm (ZOOM)
Rosary for world peace & individual intentions

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
Saturdays 9:30am-2:30pm Gethsemane Chapel

St. Monica Grand Annual



St. Lucy Grand Annual



GIVE NOW

OFFERTORY DECEMBER 16 & 17

St. Monica - \$8,571.00

St. Lucy - \$4,115.00

Weekly Offertory needed to sustain parish operations: St. Monica - \$10,000 | St. Lucy - \$6,000

Thank you for your continued generous contribution to the mission of our parishes.



Yes, I CAN... We are in need of cereal, canned pasta, canned corn, canned carrots, canned peas, mashed potatoes & soups. Donations can be dropped off anytime at the entrances to St. Lucy Church and the side door of Gethsemane Chapel at St. Monica Church.

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Mondays @ 10 am. Please email all bulletin notices to parishoffice.stlm@gmail.com.

<p>GETHSEMANE CHAPEL AT ST. MONICA CHURCH Open 7 days/week from morning rush hour until 7pm</p>	<p>CHAPEL OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ST. LUCY CANDLE SHRINE Open Mon-Fri 9am-7pm , Sat & Sun 9am-5pm</p>
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BAPTISMS 2nd Sunday of the month, 2:00pm at St. Monica's | 3rd Sunday of the month, 2:00pm at St. Lucy's
Please call the Parish Offices at least 2 months in advance to schedule.

MARRIAGES Please call the Parish Offices at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date and before booking a reception hall.

<p>MASS SCHEDULE SAT 4 pm (VIGIL) both parishes SUN 9 am & 12 pm St. Monica 10:30 am St. Lucy MON/TUES/THURS/FRI 9 am St. Lucy SATURDAY 9 am St. Monica</p>	<p>CONFESSIONS SAT 3-3:45pm at both parishes</p>
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METHUEN CATHOLIC

THE PARISHES OF ST. MONICA AND ST. LUCY

PARISH OFFICES

254 Merrimack Street, Methuen, MA 01844
978.683.1193
www.methuencatholic.org
Hours: M - F 9am - 2pm



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
978.686.9573

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Darin Colarusso	Pastor
Fr. Michael Harvey	Parochial Vicar
Deacon John Kobrenski	Permanent Deacon
Deacon John Pierce	Senior Deacon
Kera Mansour	Business Manager
methuencatholic@gmail.com	
Karl Jackson	Director of Parish Life
faithformation.stlm@gmail.com	
Brink Bush	Music Director
Sharon Waning	Music Ministry (St. Lucy)
Kevin Fitzgerald	Facilities (St. Lucy) / RCIA
Christine Ryan	Administrative Assistant
parishoffice.stlm@gmail.com	



ST. MONICA SCHOOL
212 Lawrence Street, Methuen, MA 01844
(978) 686 -1801
www.saintmonicaschoolmethuen.org

SCHOOL STAFF

Donna Henderson	Principal
Pam Silveira	Administrative Assistant
smsoffice@methuencatholic.org	

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON*Luke 2: 16*

The shepherds went in haste,
and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

ENTRANCE HYMN*The First Nowell*

The first Nowell, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

**PENITENTIAL ACT - GLORIA***Refer to Pew Card***FIRST READING***Genesis 15: 1-6; 21: 1-3*

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying:

“Fear not, Abram!
I am your shield;
I will make your reward very great.”

But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what good will your gifts be, if I keep on being childless and have as my heir the steward of my house, Eliezer?” Abram continued, “See, you have given me no offspring, and so one of my servants will be my heir.” Then the word of the LORD came to him: “No, that one shall not be your heir; your own issue shall be your heir.” The Lord took Abram outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so,” he added, “shall your descendants be.” Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.

The LORD took note of Sarah as he had said he would; he did for her as he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time that God had stated. Abraham gave the name Isaac to this son of his whom Sarah bore him.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM*Psalm 105: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9*

Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name; make known among the nations his deeds.
Sing to him, sing his praise, proclaim all his wondrous deeds.

Glory in his holy name; rejoice, O hearts that seek the LORD!
Look to the LORD in his strength, constantly seek his face.

You descendants of Abraham, his servants, sons of Jacob, his chosen ones:
He, the LORD, is our God; throughout the earth his judgments prevail.

He remembers forever his covenant which he made binding for a thousand generations
which he entered into with Abraham and by his oath to Isaac.

SECOND READING*Hebrews 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19*

Brothers and sisters: By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age - and Sarah herself was sterile - for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy. So it was that there came forth from one man, himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore.

By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name." He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead, and he received Isaac back as a symbol.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*Hebrews 1: 1-2*

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he has spoken to us through the Son.

GOSPEL*Luke 2: 22-40*

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord. *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord*, and to offer the sacrifice of *a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons*, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go
in peace, according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which your prepared in sight of all the peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and glory for your people Israel.”

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted - and you yourself a sword will pierce - so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshipped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

CREED*Refer to Pew Card***COMMUNION ANTIPHON***Baruch 3: 38*

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.


PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle,
be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil.
May God rebuke him we humbly pray;
and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God,
cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits
who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.




COMMUNION HYMN*What Child Is This*

Verses




1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Ma-ry's lap is
 2. Why lies he in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are
 3. So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh, Come peas-ant, king, to




1. sleep-ing? Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet, While
 2. feed-ing? Good Chris-tian, fear: for sin-ners here The
 3. own him; The King of kings sal-va-tion brings, Let


Refrain




1. shep-herds watch are keep-ing? This, this is Christ the
 2. si-lent Word is plead-ing.
 3. lov-ing hearts en-throne him.



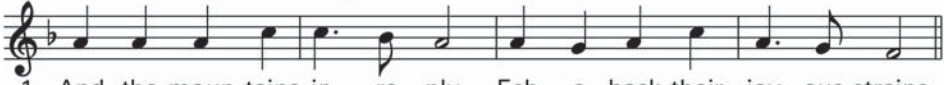
King, Whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing; Haste,



haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Ma-ry.


RECESSIONAL HYMN*Angels We Have Heard on High*


1. An-gels we have heard on high Sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2. Shep-herds, why this ju-bi-lee? Why your joy-ous strains pro-long?
 3. Come to Beth-le-hem and see Him whose birth the an-gels sing;
 4. See him in a man-ger laid Whom the an-gels praise a-bove;




1. And the moun-tains in re-ply Ech-o back their joy-ous strains.
 2. Say what may the tid-ings be Which in-spire your heav'n-ly song.
 3. Come, a-dore on bend-ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.
 4. Ma-ry, Jo-seph, lend your aid, While we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain



Glo - ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o!



Glo - ri-a in ex-cel-sis De - o!

ST. MONICA PARISH

Saturday, December 30

9:00am Jorge Quintana
 4:00pm For the Parishioners of
 St. Monica & St. Lucy Parishes

Sunday, December 31

9:00am Fred J. Rapisardi
 George William LaFland
 Charles & Helen Dobeck
 Richy Gallagher
 Alan Tisbert
 Gloria & Alexander Vellette
 12:00pm Martin McGowan

**Monday, January 1 - SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
 MOTHER OF GOD**

12:00pm Holy Day Mass

Saturday, January 6

9:00am FIRST SATURDAY MASS
 4:00pm Aline Duncan
 Valorie Duncan
 Mr. & Mrs. Mecleor Raza

Sunday, January 7

9:00am For the Parishioners of
 St. Monica & St. Lucy
 12:00pm Catherine Goff

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PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

DAY	DATE	PRIEST	SEMINARIAN
Sun	12/31/23	Fr. Dan Finn	Stephen Baruffi
Mon	01/01/24	Pope Francis	Pope Francis
Tues	01/02/24	Fr. Robert Poitras	Michael Castellon
Wed	01/03/24	Carmelites of Mary Immaculate	Alexander Charow
Thurs	01/04/24	Fr. Richard T. Conway	Gerson Garcia
Fri	01/05/24	All Bishops	Rafael Milla
Sat	01/06/24	Fr. Oliver Verrill	Thomas Rashid

ST. LUCY PARISH

Saturday, December 30

4:00pm Deceased Members of the Pisano,
 Lehane, Spampinato, DiLavore
 & Saitta Families
 Joseph Sholik
 Isadore Trovato

Sunday, December 31

10:30am Catherine Petralia
 Pascuale & Carmela DiLorenzo
 Bart Perillo
 Carmine & Carmela Santantonio
 Lina Santantonio
 Daniel Connors
 Richard Loehnes

**Monday, January 1 - SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
 MOTHER OF GOD**

9:00am Holy Day Mass

Tuesday, January 2

9:00am

Thursday, January 4

9:00am Vincent Rea

Friday, January 5

9:00am Adella DiZazzo
 John & Mary DiZazzo
 Donna Scanlon

Saturday, January 6

4:00pm Kathy Messina

Sunday, January 7

10:30am Bertha Figueredo
 Isabel Figueredo
 Deceased Members of the Piazza Family
 Deceased Members of the Bellia Family
 Manuel Leal

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Michelle O., Nora N., Brian J., Bill R., Patrice K., Jason & Matt W.

Please pray for Eliza Lasota, Sheila Spinney, and Richard Kane whose funerals we recently celebrated. May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

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Fr. Tom Nestor has served as pastor at the Collaborative Parishes of Resurrection and Saint Paul in Hingham for the past ten years, and previously served at St. Eulalia's in Winchester for 17 years. A Harvard graduate and native of West Roxbury, Fr. Nestor is known for fostering a sense of community wherever he goes.

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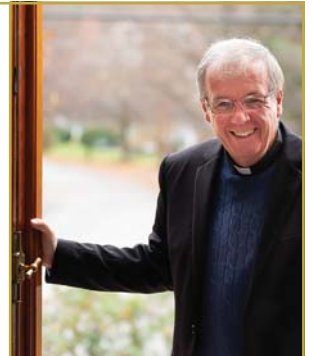


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